

AUG 15 2016

EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

The EPA's plan to clean up the Willamette River by dredging portions that run through downtown Portland is not a wise approach. I don't believe that this is a problem that needs the aggressive and expensive solution that they're proposing. A recent study in 2014 has shown that the river is healing itself, with a 40% reduction in contaminants since the EPA's earlier study in 2004. Their plan has not factored this in, and that's a mistake.

I wouldn't do anything to disturb the river right now. The Willamette's natural processes are already cleaning it up, so why does the EPA want to spend as much as a billion dollars on a cleanup plan that isn't needed? I care about the environment, and I do a lot to help it, but I don't agree with this plan. I think if a cost-benefit analysis were done, it would show that the money the EPA wants to spend will actually return very little value to the environment and very little money to the city or the state.

I don't think the negative effects on the local Portland economy have been factored into their cost-benefit analysis. I'm retired now, but years ago I did fish on the Willamette for salmon. Many continue to use it for recreation and locals and tourists visit the waterfront. If this area became an active and noisy construction zone, it would certainly discourage me from going there. I'm not on a fixed income, but my income does have limits, so if my taxes were to go up because of the EPA's plan it would certainly affect my family.

The best plan for now is to leave the Willamette River alone and let the natural healing that's been happening over the last decade continue. The EPA's current river cleanup proposal is a bad idea and one that Portland doesn't need.

Sincerely,

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